

The Gospel of Mark – Part 3 | The Baptism of Jesus | 3/24/19

- Introduction
 - In this section, we will look at what we know of the first 30 years of Jesus's earthly life and then look at the events that took place at His baptism.
 - His baptism is the first public event that officially begins His ministry of proclaiming who He is and His purpose.
 - He does this at the (approximate) age of 30 in A.D 26, and His ministry ends about 3 1/2 years later with His death and resurrection in A.D. 30.
- **Jesus's life before beginning His earthly ministry and baptism.**
 - Jesus, coming to see John the Baptist, is the first we hear of Jesus since He was a 12-year-old boy in the temple.
 - Luke 2:41-52
 - Jesus is now about 30 years old.
 - Luke 3:23a
 - “Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age...”
 - The Scriptures record for us His birth and the event in the temple where he was a young child, but we are not told anything else about His life up until this point.
 - **We do know a few things though based on what we can glean from the Scriptures.**
 - Jesus lived and grew up in Nazareth.
 - We know that He grew up and lived in the town of Nazareth.
 - Matthew 2:23
 - “And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.”
 - Luke 2:39
 - “And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.”
 - He lived in Nazareth His entire life as can be seen how He is identified when He begins His earthly ministry.
 - John 1:45
 - “Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”
 - **What else do we know about Nazareth?**
 - He was submissive to His parents.
 - Luke 2:51a
 - “And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them...”
 - Jesus would have been the "perfect" child, fully respecting His father and mother and of course, He was without sin.
 - He grew up full of wisdom and was respected by God and man.
 - Luke 2:40
 - “And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.
 - Luke 2:52

- “And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.”
 - Being that He is the Son of God and part of the Trinity, He was very wise and was shown great favor by God the Father.
- He picked up the trade of His earthly father which was that of a carpenter.
 - Mark 6:3a
 - “Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary...”
 - Jesus spent His time just like any other "average" person and went into the same trade labor as Joseph, His earthly father.
- He had other siblings
 - Mary and Joseph had other children after Jesus so they would have been His half brothers and sisters.
 - Mark 6:3
 - “Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us? And they took offense at him.”
 - James became a leader of the church and wrote the epistle of James.
 - Judas is the author of the epistle of Jude.
- **Why do you think Jesus spent these 30 years living as a seemingly average person before revealing who He truly was?**
- **Is there anything that you find interesting about Jesus’s life before His earthly ministry?**
- **Though we can only speculate, how else do you think Jesus lived His life during this time?**
- **The Baptism of Jesus | Mark 1:9-11 and Matthew 3:13-17**
 - John the Baptist had been called by God to prepare the way for Jesus Christ, and he had been obediently doing this.
 - Many had come to receive a baptism of repentance demonstrating that they had confessed and repented of their sins. Their hearts were being prepared to hear the Gospel from the mouth of Jesus Christ.
 - Now is the time for Jesus to officially begin His earthly ministry and he does this with a public baptism just like those who had already been baptized by John the Baptist.
 - **Read Mark 1:9-11**
 - **Read Matthew 3:13-17**
 - **Jesus approached John the Baptist and John did not see himself to be worthy to baptize Jesus.**
 - John, once he realized that Jesus wanted him to baptize Him, he did not see himself as being worthy.
 - As he previously stated that he was not even worthy of carrying His sandals.
 - He felt that of all things that he should be baptized by Jesus, not the other way around.
 - **Jesus, however, made it clear that He desired and must be baptized by John as it was "necessary to fulfill all righteousness."**
 - Jesus saw it necessary to be baptized by John and to identify Himself with sinners.
 - **We might wonder ourselves "why," why did Jesus choose to be baptized?**
 - This was a baptism of repentance from sins, which of course is for sinners. But Jesus was sinless! He didn’t have any sins to repent.
 - **Jesus saw that it was necessary to identify Himself with the sinners, and more specifically with the sins that He would soon bear on the cross.**
 - 2 Corinthians 5:21

- “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”
 - **If Jesus was going to provide righteousness for the sinners, it was necessary that He identifies with them.**
 - Jesus was sinless, but in a short time, He would be going to take all our sins and nail them to the cross.
 - Colossians 2:13-14
 - “And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.”
 - By being baptized, He is identifying Himself with our sins which also foreshadows His coming death, burial, and resurrection.
 - **His baptism also gives us an example of what He will later command all of the believers to do, which is to be baptized.**
 - Matthew 28:19
 - “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,”
 - **What does Jesus’s identification with sinners at His baptism mean to you?**
- **The baptism of Jesus gives us a beautiful picture of the Trinity.**
 - The “Trinity” is not found in the Bible, but it is a word that we use to describe the relationship between God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
 - The Trinity describes how God exists in three co-equal persons.
 - The three persons are distinct, yet still one essence.
 - There are not multiple God’s
 - Jesus was not created, nor was He a lesser being than God the Father.
 - God (Godhead) exists in these 3 persons at the same time.
 - We see the Trinity, all three persons of the Godhead present at the same moment.
 - Jesus as God the Son being baptized.
 - The Holy Spirit descending.
 - God the Father speaking.
 - This gives ample evidence to refute “modalism” which is to say that God operates in different modes depending on the situation which is to say there is only one person.
- **God identified who Jesus was at His baptism.**
 - The importance of Jesus’s baptism cannot be overstated. It is here where God publicly voiced to those present just who Jesus was.
 - **God gave proof to the deity of Jesus Christ. He was God’s Son the Messiah whom they had been waiting for.**
 - For centuries the Jewish people had been told of the coming Messiah and the time had finally come.
 - This is also what God said of Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration
 - Matthew 17:5
 - “He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;’”
- **What else is significant about God publicly identifying Jesus?**
- The Spirit descended upon Jesus and empowered Him for His ministry.

- The dove that descended upon Jesus showed that not only was He the Son of God but that He had the Spirit within Him.
- This verified John that Jesus was the Messiah, the one God told him to look for.
 - In the Gospel of John, we see a future statement from John the Baptist where he had been communicating with God and God told him how to identify who was the Messiah.
 - John 1:32-34
 - “And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit. And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.
- This was also the fulfilling of Old Testament prophecy
 - Isaiah 11:2
 - “And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.”
- The baptism pictured his future death, burial, and resurrection which is one we as Christians also emulate.
 - Baptism is also an image of Jesus's death, burial, and resurrection which is what Jesus would do in 3 short years from this time.
 - This is also the image that Christians portray when we are baptized.
 - Out of obedience, we are baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And in doing so, we also identify His death, burial, and resurrection.
 - It is a beautiful picture of Christ and what he had done for us.
 - This is why Baptists choose to be immersed, as it was the mode of baptism of Jesus.
- **Does Jesus’s baptism show how us that He is a God that is far removed or one that is deeply involved?**